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10. — 1. *Proceedings of the President and Fellows of the Connecticut Medical Society, in Convention, May, 1837.* New Haven; B. L. Hamlen. Svo. pp. 12.
2. *An Address to the Annual Convention of the Medical Society of Connecticut, Convened at Hartford, May 10, 1837.* By THOMAS MINER, M. D., President of the Society. New Haven; B. L. Hamlen. Svo. pp. 12.
3. *A Report of the New Haven County Medical Society, on the Expediency of repealing that Section of the Medical Laws of this State, which excludes Irregular Practitioners from the Benefits of Law in the Collection of Fees.* New Haven; B. L. Hamlen. Svo. pp. 16.

THE respectability of the Medical profession, and the quiet confidence with which its members are in general regarded, have in a great measure driven out of the minds of men the remembrance of its condition in most parts of the country in former times, and the evils which were in consequence suffered by the community at large. The means, by which changes so great and so beneficial have been accomplished, are forgotten; and in some instances the Medical Societies, by whose agency they have chiefly been effected, have been made the objects of jealousy and reproach. In our sister State of Connecticut, an attempt has been recently made, mainly by the friends of the Thomsonian practice, to obtain a repeal of the statute, which withholds from unlicensed practitioners of medicine the benefit of law in the collection of their fees. Petitions from various parts of the State were presented to the legislature, and the Medical Society was served with a citation, by which it was in a manner compelled to take notice of them.

It is impossible to read the account of the proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Society, without the feeling that its members were engaged in much higher objects, than devising plans of personal advantage or professional interest. The address of Dr. Miner is an able and dignified performance, well adapted to the occasion, and to his position in the Society, from the Presidency of which he was now retiring, having filled that office for several successive years. It was a suitable time for reminiscences of the former state of the healing art in that community, in comparison with its present flourishing condition.

"In 1792," says Dr. Miner, "when the first legislative act was passed in our favor, there were a few physicians of high eminence, whose talents had been developed by the Revolutionary war, and other events of the day, distributed in perhaps every county of the State. In most of

the towns, however, the great majority of the profession were at a very low ebb. All who chose to practise were legal physicians, however indifferent their qualifications. There were instances of men's setting themselves up for physicians, who had not pretended to study more than three months, and some of them had scarcely any other books than Buchan and a dispensatory. If possible, Surgery was generally in a worse state. We had three or four eminent operators, it is true, but it is probable that there were scarcely half a dozen in the whole commonwealth, who were prepared to meet any uncommon case. The department of Obstetrics was lower still, and though much of that business had fallen into the hands of the physicians, yet there was not probably a good practitioner to a county. Chemistry, Botany, and most of the auxiliary branches, were hardly known by name, and had received scarcely any attention from more than three or four physicians in the State. The knowledge of Morbid Anatomy was equally imperfect.

"Further, there being no acknowledged rules of medical police, and of intercourse as respected each other, many of the physicians of that day were perfect Ishmaelites, constantly at variance among themselves, acting without concert, and feeling very little sense of the dignity as well as the importance of the profession. Even several of considerable standing did not blush to avow, that they had their secret nostrums, and openly to resort to the low arts of modern quackery." — pp. 3, 4.

The Address throughout exhibits the philanthropic spirit of its author, in the recommendation of harmony and good feelings among the members of the Society, and of zealous efforts on their part to promote the public benefit. The subject of the peculiar duties of their present position, in reference to the petitions already mentioned, is touched upon by Dr. Miner, but is more fully discussed in the Report of the New Haven County Medical Society, (a constituent part of the State Society,) on the expediency of repealing the laws against irregular practitioners. We regret that our limits will not allow a more extended notice of this able Report. It first shows, in a plain and very satisfactory manner, the necessity of diligent and protracted study and observation, to acquire the skill to manage diseases. It might seem that no argument was needed, to establish what is so obvious; and the Report, in this and several other analogous instances, apologizes for descending to the proof of what ought not to need proof, by showing its necessity under existing circumstances. The proof exhibited however in this case is so conclusive, that it can hardly fail to convince even those, whose capacities are of such a calibre as to require evidence in regard to it. The only weak point we perceive in the argument, is in the supposition that *two years* are a sufficient time for the *minimum* of study. Our friends in Connecticut are, in this particular,

behind the rest of the intelligent portion of the civilized world, in their estimate of the requisites for the commencement of medical practice. We know of no other community, where a license for practice is granted, till after at least three years of study.

The facility of imposition, and the necessity for some protection for those who are not able to distinguish, as the act of Henry VIII. had it, "the uncunynge from the cunynge," are exhibited in a series of judicious remarks. The precise character of the provisions best calculated to protect the community from such impositions, may give rise to some difference of opinion. In Connecticut, the chief reliance is upon the prohibition to enforce the payment of fees by law. A similar provision in our own laws, in Massachusetts, was repealed in the Revised Statutes, adopted in 1835, partly at the suggestion, and entirely with the concurrence of physicians, who have given much attention to the subject, because it was thought, that, in this Commonwealth, a more efficient and less objectionable protection is obtained by the rule of the Massachusetts Medical Society, that its Fellows will not consult with, nor in any other manner aid or abet irregular practitioners. What is principally requisite is, that the line of distinction between the educated and the uneducated should be strongly marked.

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- 11.—*Second Report on the State of Education in Bengal. District of Rajshahi.* By W. ADAM. Published by Order of the Government. Calcutta; G. H. Huttman. 1836. 8vo. pp. 79, XLVIII.

MR. ADAM'S Report of July, 1835, which was noticed in a former number of this Journal, presented a sketch of the state of education in all the districts of Bengal. The present Report is confined to a single district, and goes into more accurate and ample details. Mr. Adam has begun his researches at the point, where the investigations of Dr. Buchanan, made about thirty years since, terminated; namely, the district of Rajshahi. The first section gives an account of the subdivisions and population, with the proportion of Mussulmans and Hindoos. — The second contains a detailed sketch of the elementary instruction, under the two divisions of public and private, and arranged in four classes, according to the languages employed in them. In this part, we are furnished with particular statements of the mode of instruction, the extent to which it is carried, the qualifications of teachers, and their remuneration. From these state-